



THE HIGHWAY



VOLUME 3 — NO. 6

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

JANUARY, 1945

HONORED AT CHRISTMAS GATHERING



Harry Fowler, Commissioner Miller and Rudy Vogel face the camera immediately following the ceremonies at which these two members of the Survey & Plans Division received Merit Awards. A portion of the Christmas decorations and the Highway Service Flag and Honor Roll appear in background.

Fowler and Vogel Get Merit Awards At Xmas Services

Survey & Plans Employees Honored for Suggestions

Certificates of Merit were bestowed upon Harry Fowler and Rudolph Vogel, Jr., at the annual Christmas services of the Highway Department which were held in the board room of the State House Annex on Friday, December 22nd.

Commissioner Spencer Miller, Jr., presided over the gathering which, besides honoring the above named employees, paid tribute to those Highwaymen now serving in the Armed Forces. Following an invocation by Dean Frederic M. Adams of the Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, William Kirk of the Real Estate Division led those assembled in singing several of the better known Christmas carols.

Commissioner Miller reviewed the progress of the past year of war and told of the plans now being made within the Department for post-war highway construction. He spoke in glowing terms of the part some 400 Highway employees were playing in the present conflict in all parts of the world.

Award Certificates

In making the Certificate of Merit awards, the Commissioner paid tribute to the Suggestion System of the Department which he said had produced many fine ideas which were now being used as standard practice. The suggestion which led to the Fowler award was the same suggestion which had been recognized by the Ten Year Club at their annual dinner. The Vogel suggestion, however, was unveiled for the first time at this gathering. It deals with an improved method of marking employee efficiency and is the result of careful investigation of efficiency rating systems employed throughout the United States. It

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John M. Cirello

John M. Cirello, 62, of 56 Second Avenue, Raritan, died on Wednesday, December 20th at the Somerset Hospital in Somerville following a lengthy illness. He had been employed in the Maintenance Division since July 17th, 1929, and was a member on the crew of Foreman N. J. Pendergast. John was one of four remaining veterans of the fine group formerly under the direction of A. J. McManus now Supervisor of the Northern Maintenance Division. The others are Peter Ayres, Mariano Marchettini and Alex Fischetti.

The passing of Mr. Cirello brings to light one of the most un-

Wesley R. Bellis Will Go to France As Traffic Expert

Will Study Transportation Problems in European Theatre of Operations

Wesley R. Bellis, Acting Traffic Engineer for the State Highway Department, has been granted a leave of absence for one year to become a civilian employee of the War Department in France. In



WESLEY R. BELLIS

his new capacity Mr. Bellis will tackle the difficult traffic problems which now confront the Army as tens of thousands of vehicles of all types clog the highways in their effort to supply our troops in the front lines.

Mr. Bellis is a graduate of the Rutgers School of Engineering and for many years has specialized in traffic analysis for the State Highway Department. He is in charge of the Newark office of the Survey and Plans Traffic Bureau and has served as a member of the Suggestion Committee.

In selecting a man of this type we are sure the Army has chosen wisely. "Wes" will take to France the best wishes of his many friends in the Department.

usual of records, for he was the father of six sons, all of whom are serving in the armed forces of the United States. Five of these men, John, Jr., Dominic, Joseph, Frank and Fury are in the Army, while the sixth son, Anthony, is with the Marines.

Mr. Cirello is survived by his widow, Mrs. Rose Cirello, and a daughter, Mrs. Rose Oliverio, in addition to his sons. To them THE HIGHWAY extends the sympathies of the entire Department.

Highway and Parkway Construction Forecast For New Jersey

"Congestion on our highways, before war time restrictions were imposed, was so great that it becomes obvious that additional or enlarged facilities will be required for post-war travel.

"In this connection it seems to me that motorists might well be willing to pay moderate tolls for special highway facilities free from ordinary traffic obstructions and separated from truck travel.

"Construction of such scenic highways or toll parkways in the neighboring States of New York and Connecticut, has expedited so-called pleasure driving, taken much of the pressure off the commercial roads, and greatly enhanced real estate values in surrounding communities.

"I recommend that the Legislature give consideration to the practicability of granting the necessary authority for the construction of such roads as would pay their own way with moderate tolls. These highways can well form a part of our post-war program.

"As to the all-over program for additional highway construction, I have purposely postponed any extensive activity both because of shortage of labor and material, and a desire to have such construction form an important part of our post-war public works when unemployment may, I fear, be one of our major problems.

"Fortunately, much-needed improvements in the New Jersey highway system have been planned long in advance so that work can be started as soon as funds are available on 616 miles of new roads already approved by the Legislature, which would cost an estimated \$300,000,000. Plans are available also for other construction and reconstruction, which if approved, provide a total post-war backlog of \$520,000,000 in road improvements."

The Annual Message of Governor Edge to the 1945 State Legislature, of which this is a part, was notable not only for its comprehensive presentation of the problems facing our State, but for its emphasis upon the need for parkways. For some years now it has been recognized that New Jersey was not maintaining its position of leadership in the field of highway construction because of the lack of adequate parkway legislation. Repeated efforts over the past few years to secure such legislation has failed of passage. Now, however, with the wide spread public demand on the part of responsible state-wide organizations and the warm support of the Governor, it is confidently expected that the Legislature will take definitive action on this important subject at this session of the Legislature.

New Jersey has an enviable position in pioneering in many fields of highway design and construction. With the large number of recreational areas and the natural beauty of the State, New Jersey should be able to embark upon a program of parkways and freeways which not only preserve the scenic beauty of the State but provide needed relief for some of our over-taxed roads.

The future is bright with promise. It is hoped that 1945 will mark the legislative commencement of this important program. It will mean the opening up of a new and important chapter not only in highway development, but an equally important event in the advancement of our State.

Spencer Miller, Sr.
State Highway Commissioner

Governor Edge Praises Snow Removal Forces

In a recent statement to the press, Governor Edge in commenting upon the recent snow removal job done by the Highway Department said: "I was very pleased to learn of the devotion to duty by highway employees in working long hours to keep the highways open. Their overtime work and the willingness of the Army to assign personnel on an emergency basis is a fine lesson in cooperation in war time."

Viracola Injured

Michael A. Viracola of 400 Westwood Avenue, Long Branch, was injured on December 20th when the car he was driving skidded on an icy pavement and crashed into a pole causing the pole to crash on the car. He was taken to the Rahway Hospital and later moved to the Monmouth Memorial Hospital at Long Branch, from which he was discharged on January 15th.

Mr. Viracola is an Assistant Supervisor of Traffic Safety attached to the Newark Office of Survey and Plans.

Highway Flyer Awarded D.F.C.; Bombed Germany

First Lt. Bertram Newmark, 26, formerly employed as a power mower operator in Landscape Foreman Jim Horn's crew, has been decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in numerous attacks on vital industrial targets within Germany. He is a bombardier on the AAF B-17 Flying Fortress "Buzzin' Betsie."



L.T. NEWMARK

Son of Mrs. Clara Newmark, of Perth Amboy, Newmark attended Hoffmann High School in South Amboy and was employed in the Landscape Division of this Department from 1937 until his enlistment in the A.A.F. in March, 1941. During December he was home on a 30-day leave, having completed his missions.

Lt. Newmark also holds the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters. The Air Medal was awarded for previous flying duty with the 8th Anti-Sub Patrol in the Caribbean Theatre. He has participated in attacks on Politz, Hanover, Cologne, Merseburg, Magdeburg and Leipzig.

"Flak was our greatest enemy on all our missions," said Newmark. "We have flown through all types and I'd rather see fighters than hear a few bursts of flak any day."

The D.F.C. citation states in part: "The determination and courage displayed by Lt. Newmark during many hours of combat reflect the highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States."

Nice going and congratulations, Lt. Newmark!

Maintenance Men Injured in Early Morning Accident

While cindering an icy hill on Route 30 near Glen Gardner at 4:30 a.m. on the morning of January 2nd, three men in the maintenance crew of Foreman Paul Haney were injured when a large trailer truck went out of control and skidded into the vehicle from which they were working.

Those hurt were Charles F. Snyder of Pattenburg, Herman Schutts of Clinton, and Russell Bigelow of Hampton. All three were given emergency treatment by a local doctor and later Schutts and Bigelow were removed to the Somerville Hospital in Somerville where it was disclosed that the former was suffering from a fracture of the leg and the latter from undetermined injuries.

THE HIGHWAY

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A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

With the arrival of the New Year many of us annually take stock of ourselves and come to the solemn realization that all is not as it should be. This self-evaluation inevitably results in a determination to improve things in general with seldom a thought to the short-lived resolutions of other years. The reason for this may lie in the fact that whenever we endeavor to bring about an improvement we invariably decide against doing those things we are convinced have brought us a measure of pleasure in the past. Under the conditions we more or less become martyrs to our own dictates.

If, on the other hand, we should resolve to do something that would bring pleasure to ourselves and at the same time add immeasurably to the joy of others, there is every chance that the experiment would prove to be highly successful. This brings us to the thought we wanted to pass on to you in the first place. Why not resolve to write regularly to some Highwayman in the armed forces; some fellow with whom you used to work and who is now watching every mail call for word from home? The odds are that no single act would pay you greater dividends or that no resolution would be more fun keeping. If you don't have a particular service address, drop a line to THE HIGHWAY. Every effort will be made to supply it to you.—And by the way, HAPPY NEW YEAR.

MARCH OF DIMES

Throughout the year many appeals are made to State employees to lend a helping hand to many charities. Right now the March of Dimes is appealing for aid in the fight against infantile paralysis. Perhaps no other cause tugs at the heartstrings in quite the same manner as the call to help suffering children. Do your part in supporting this worthy charity.

State of New Jersey

Civil Service Commission
Trenton

Dec. 27, 1944

Mr. Eugene V. Connell
Assistant to Commissioner &
Administrative Assistant
State Highway Department
State House Annex
Dear Sir:

We are enclosing notices to each of your employees who filed appeals, as well as each employee whose salary or title was changed by reason of an appeal other than his own, advising them of the action taken in each instance. Will you kindly distribute these notices to the employees in question as promptly as possible?

For your files, we are attaching a list of changes that have been made in either title or salary range.

In order that our classification staff may have an opportunity to clarify any other adjustments found necessary as a result of appeals, we must ask that no additional appeals be filed until further notice.

Very truly yours,
Civil Service Commission
(Signed)

William S. Carpenter,
President

In Charge of Air Force Equipment

Captain Al B. Baytel, a member of the Equipment Division before entering the Army in May, 1941, was a recent visitor. Al is now Chief of Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance for the Warner Robbins Air Service Command which covers the States of Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and Alabama. His headquarters are at Robbins Field, Ga.

Al narrates that when he first took over his present assignment it

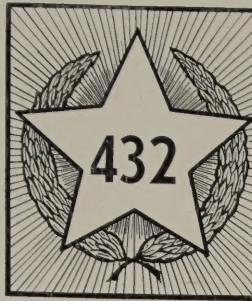


1st Lieut. Joseph DePuglio, formerly of the Southern Construction Division of Harry D. Robbins, is another Highwayman who started at the bottom and is working his way up. Besides reaching his present rank since leaving the Department, Joe married a Kentucky girl who accompanied him on his recent trip home. He is at present stationed at Willow Run, Michigan, where he is Personnel Officer for the Air Base there.

It was necessary to call attention to the fact that maintenance and repair were not limited to planes alone. To accomplish his end he threatened to attach propellers to jeeps, trucks and other equipment. Before long his enthusiasm for the "ugly-ducklings" of the Air Force was generally shared with the result that today everything is running smoothly.

Al was enjoying a 12-day leave when he stopped off in Trenton. Most of his short vacation was spent in New York enjoying the opera and an assortment of Broadway hits. His service address is: Warner Robbins Air Technical Service Command, Robbins Field, Ga.

Highway Honor Roll



News from Our Men In the Service



PVT. ANDY SERBIN

PFC Andy Serbin, a former member of the Administration Division, paid a visit to the Trenton offices while on a recent furlough. Since his latest transfer, Andy has been stationed in Newark where he is engaged in seeing that all sorts of Air Corps equipment embarks for overseas on schedule.

Prior to arriving at his present location, he had been stationed at Atlantic City, Fort Logan, Colorado, and Patterson Field in Dayton, Ohio. He has been in the Air Force since Armistice Day, 1942.

A letter will reach Andy if addressed to: Section K, 4108 AAF-BU, Port of Newark.



CORP. MANNIFIELD

Cpl. Jack Mannfield, Jr., who formerly worked in the traffic line painting crew under Foreman John T. Carr, Jr., is now on active service somewhere in the South Pacific. Jack was inducted into the service on April 8, 1942, and received his initial training at Fort Monmouth, from which he was sent almost directly overseas. Jack's father will be remembered as a former gate tender up at the Fernwood Service Station. Jack was the first member of the traffic line painting crew to enter the services. His present address is: Cpl. J. Mannfield, 12080222, Cas. Det. "A," APO 17596, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

Sees Lots of Action

A nice long letter arrived from Lieut. Commdr. Rans Abbott the other day. It was written from the flag ship of the 7th Fleet in Pacific waters, where Rans is serving as Asst. Chief of Staff. He



PRES. OMENA AND
COMDR. ABBOTT

sends some interesting figures regarding his 23 months in that area where it has been his duty to accompany all sorts of missions as observer. Among other things, he has crossed the equator 111 times; been on 19 operations; 16 PT boat raids and 14 bombing missions. Of a total of 130,000 miles in the air, approximately 100,000 have been over combat territory.

When the American forces landed on Leyte, it was Commdr. Abbott's job to bring President Osmeña of the Philippines from his hideout in New Guinea to his temporary headquarters on the newly conquered island. The heat, mosquitos and rain make life as tough on Leyte as on the other South Pacific islands. In fact, according to the aerologist of the 7th Fleet, it rained 23 inches in a 5-day period following the landings.

Commander Abbott's address is: R. J. Abbott, Lieut.-Commdr. U.S.N.R. Fleet P. O., San Francisco, Cal. Commander—7th Fleet—Staff (3).



CORP. HORACE CARL

Corporal Horace D. Carl was a foreman in the "Sign Gang" prior to entering the Signal Corps in December, 1942. Today he is an instructor in telephonic communications at Camp Crowder, Missouri, where his work deals with the complexities of sending several messages at different frequencies over the same line at the same time.

Before he was qualified to teach this specialty, Corporal Carl had to complete an intensive 14 months course from which he graduated with honors. At the time he visited his many friends in the Trenton area he was enjoying a 10-day furlough, the first in many months. His address is: Co. C, 34th BN, ASFTC, Camp Crowder, Missouri.

By way of the Montclair Office it is learned that the gold leaves on the shoulders of Major W. L. Braybrooke, former chief of that office, have turned to silver and that means Bray is now a Lieutenant Colonel. This comes as good news to his many friends in the Department and congratulations are certainly in order.

When you write to Bray address your letters:

W. L. Braybrooke, CE, 0-495201
1683 Engr. Survey Liaison Det.
Engr. Detach. HQ. Co. Z
European Theatre of Operations
APO 887, Postmaster, N.Y.C.

Lieut. Col. E. R. Sherbaum, who before his enlistment in the Army Engineers as a Captain was head of the Department's Electrical Division, is now in France with a Service of Supply Regiment. In a recent letter to Bill Wildblood, Ray tells of receiving his commission as a Lieut. Colonel on December 9th, which incidentally was his 52nd birthday. This calls for double congratulations.

A letter will reach this Highway officer, who incidentally was in France during the last war, if addressed as follows:

E. R. Sherbaum, Lieut.-Col.
C. E. 0-102363
2nd Bn. Hq. 361 Eng.
S. S. Reg. APO 562,
Postmaster, N. Y. C.



CORP. ARMSTRONG

Corp. Hugh Armstrong, formerly employed in Foreman Ollie Bearce's Sign and Traffic Line Marking Forces, and from which he was the first member to enter the Armed Forces, is now an active service with the U. S. Army somewhere in the South Pacific. His initial training in January, 1942, was received at Fort Dix. In March, 1943, he was sent to new Orleans and thence to the West Coast from where he embarked almost immediately overseas.

Corp. Armstrong is the son of Senator and Mrs. Wesley Armstrong, of Ewing Twp., Mercer County, who have two other sons in the service. His present address is: Corp. Hugh Armstrong, 12046946, Headquarters 26th Replacement Bat., APO 502, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco.



PVT. SCHAIBLE

One of the boys home on furlough over the holidays was Dorsey Schaible, PFC, formerly employed in the sign repair and maintenance crew under Foreman Frank Lewallen. Dorsey, who is now stationed at Camp Cooke, Calif., was inducted into the service on December 4, 1943. He received his preliminary training at Fort Bragg, N. C., and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He was then shipped to Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., and thence to his present assignment. Pvt. Dorsey Schaible appeared to be in excellent trim and we think we can safely say Army life agrees with him. His present address: Pfc. Dorsey Schaible, 42080653, Btry B, 922nd F. A. Bn., APO 445, Camp Cooke, California.

EQUIPMENT ITEMS

JAMES O'ROURKE

Charlie Hart, mechanic, spent his off-time prior to the opening of deer season overhauling his shot gun. It was assumed that Charlie was planning to get a buck or two as soon as the proper day arrived. You can imagine everyone's surprise when **Bob Ettinger** received a card from Charlie which read, "Got a doe instead of a buck."

What had actually happened was that Hart and Mrs. Caroline Snook of Trenton, were married the day before (Dec. 10th). The question before the house at the moment is —What part, if any, did the shot gun play? In a more serious vein Fernwood wishes the newlyweds every happiness.

Clark Reed entrained on December 19th for a vacation at St. Petersburg, Fla. He expects to use his 1944-1945 vacation for the trip and from the card received is having a whale of a time.

George Visokay is one fellow who keeps up with his correspondence. His latest letter from the South Pacific tells of receiving his Christmas fruit cake. "I want to thank you for the delicious fruit cake you sent me. I only hope that you all got as much pleasure out of opening your Xmas presents as I did mine. I had often heard the expression, 'It's the little things in life' and now I know what it means."

"All is well with me except that I have a tropical skin disease that is like prickly heat only it forms into little blisters and the more you sweat the more it itches. I hope it clears up soon."

"I wish I could tell you where I am but it is against regulations. But those yellow-bellied rats are sure catching it out this way. What else could you expect with the best equipment in the world made possible by you people at home who buy war bonds... Thanks again fellows for the cake and I hope that the next time I am wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year that I do it in person."

The sympathies of all are extended to **Tim Brennan**, our yard foreman, upon the death of his wife on December 28th. Mrs. Brennan passed away following a short illness.

Another to whom we extend our sympathies is **John Veenstra**, mechanic, whose sister died suddenly at her Paterson home on December 26th.

Austin Dey, better known to Fernwood employees and visitors as "Daniel Boone" is on the sick list. His ready smile and genial ways will be missed, so hurry back, old man.

Charlie Jones, mechanics helper, lives in Pleasant Valley up in Hunterdon County. Recently the local electric company extended its pole service to include Charlie's home. Having wired his house in anticipation of this forward step, he lit the lights in every room when the current was first turned on. Neighbors, unaccustomed to seeing such brilliance within the Jones domicile, immediately turned on a fire alarm. Soon fire-fighting equipment from the surrounding community was gathering in large numbers. But progress will not be stayed and Charlie today enjoys all the advantages of electric lights and power without panicking the countryside.

Famous Firsts: After spending 22 years in the Stock Room at Fernwood, **Joe Thiel** finally made a trip to Newark. To top it off, Joe had a chauffeur over and back. Nice place—Newark, thinks Joe.

MERIT AWARDS

(Continued from Page 1)

has met with the approval of the Civil Service Commission who have authorized the Highway Department to put it into immediate effect.

As in past years, the board room was decorated appropriately with evergreens by the members of the Landscape Division under the direction of Supervisor Robert Green. The entire affair was carried out under the supervision of A. Lee Grover, who, besides presenting the speakers, had programs prepared and distributed to all who attended. Music for the occasion was furnished by Al Getz, Don Torini and George Kutch of Fernwood.

Your M. C.
presents—
THE LADIES...
Bless Them

Admin. Div. Team Wins First Half Bowling Honors

Eight Teams Wind Up First Half of Race

Not that we want to inaugurate a mass exodus, but with the temperature consistently below freezing, it is warming to think of Dorothy Worstell, who left us a few columns ago and now writes of the leisurely life she's leading in California... plenty of rest, sunshine and mystery stories.

On January 1st, when **Helen Coffey's** leave of absence became effective, the Department lost one of its finest employees. We sincerely hope Helen has not left us indefinitely and look forward to welcoming her return.



YEOMAN MILLERICK

It is with pride and pleasure that we extend our congratulations to **Florence Millerick**, of the Coast Guard Reserve, on her recent promotion to Petty Officer, Yeoman Third Class.

The nicest holiday gift a girl could receive was **Anne Spector's** from the U.S. Army. Anne's husband has been home on furlough from Texas.

But speaking of gifts, an unusual one arrived for **Evelyn Maley** in the form of a Belgian Hare jacket. Upon investigation, we find that the Belgian Hare is "one of the breed of rather small, slender rabbits of a dark red or mahogany color."

One morning recently, **Betty Orosz's** father agreed to her plan that she take his car and he take her bus pass. Betty set off to work happily in the knowledge that she had the convenience of the car for a luncheon party that noon. Mr. Orosz set off to the bus stop. If we think it might be some time before Betty can make a similar deal with her father, it is only because that morning happened to mark the day of the Trenton Transit bus strike!

We all know what we were doing during the holiday season, what with luncheon and dinner parties arranged in practically all the divisions... but one of the luncheons held in the Nymph's Room of the Stacy Trent was made an even more gala affair by the exchange of gifts. The party consisted of LaRaine Birch, Betty Levie, Kathryn Laughry, Helen Tallon, Mary Massarotti, Katherine Applegate and Marion Hester.

A most successful Christmas party prompted the girls from the third floor to request an encore. We are happy to report their equally successful luncheon at the Hotel Hildebrecht... and happy, too, with the opportunity to put in print the names of some of our most "column-shy" ladies. They are —Sylvia Lefkowitz, Agnes St. John, Josephine O'Hara, Anne Manion, Dorothy Blinn and Fannie Brenna. Others attending were Stae Kanyuh, Marie Cristian, June Walter, Alice Carrell, Miriam Devlin, Mary Filippini, Frances Martin, Lorraine Finkle, and Grace Moore.

'Bye now.

Administration Division

Arthur Egan



SGT. KENNEDY (right) and buddies

Sgt. Neil Kennedy sends along this photograph of two buddies and himself. Neil is again in the South Pacific and from the photo appears to be in excellent health. Neil lists the names of his buddies on the photograph to which the Censor adds his own "Each and every one a character."

Paul Cranmer's young son received an archery set for Christmas. The result is that as soon as the youngster goes to bed, Paul sneaks down to the basement and starts winging arrows. His aim needs to be true for if any of those arrows land in Mrs. Cranmer's preserves, someone is likely to get hurt.

Herbert L. Newark, 19-year-old son of **Julius Newark**, is in Boot Training at Great Lakes Training Station. Upon graduation he will be rated as seaman first class. Before entering the service, he attended the University of Illinois, School of Engineering, and would have been graduated this spring.

Mr. A. Lee Grover entertained members of his staff at a Christmas dinner held in Fowler's Inn. Those present included: Mr. and Mrs. A. Lee Grover, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Case, Mr. and Mrs. William Wildblood, Mary Sheridan, Marion O'Hara, Elsie Taylor, Helen Talton, Pauline Wieland, Ruth Barrbour, Gene Palmer, Charles Engenach, Frank Reddan and Bill Fitzgerald.

Members of **Marvin Howell's** office celebrated Christmas with a luncheon held at the Stacy Trent Hotel. Those attending were: M. L. Howell, Harold Rice, Cyrus Card, Harold Jemison, Harold Palmer, Frank Allen and George Deiderick.

The Cost Dept. held its Christmas dinner at the Club Condado. Attending were: Evelyn Maley, Helen Disbrow, Eileen Logan, Ann Ludwig, Mildred Friedman, Ann O'Connor, Mary Cunningham, Betty Orosz, Marilyn Siddall, Madge Kiernan, Bill Howell, Art Egan, Harry Geller, Earl Hankinson, John Gulch, Frank Kimble, Frank Torkewitz, Ed McElroy, Jim Corle and Frank Rickett.

Word has been received here of the promotion of Edw. J. McCordell, IV, from second to first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is now located in the South Pacific. Lt. McCordell is the son of Senior Paymaster Edward J. McCordell and will be recalled as a summer employee at the Lab during the time he was studying engineering.

Chatter: If one of these snowy mornings you should notice a trail of two left-foot prints in the snow, you are not following a freak of nature. It seems **George Deiderick** bought a new pair of galoshes and on the first occasion he had to wear them he discovered he had purchased two left-foot galoshes. The snow being rather heavy that morning, George had no alternative but to wear the two lefts to work... From **Frank Matzer** we learn that **Sgt. and Mrs. John Mountford** are blessed with a baby girl. Congratulations!... We also learn that **Cpl. Tom Harcar** is again at his post in Hyde Park after a minor operation... Johnny

ELECTRICAL FLASHES

John Kilpatrick

Ernest Brendel of Cliffwood is recuperating from injuries received in a fall while greasing the Victory Bridge. Speedy recovery, Ernie.

The State Bridge Employees Association, Inc., elected the following officers at their December meeting in Perth Amboy:

President, James Lipari; 1st V. President, Harold Lloyd; 2nd V. President, Harry LeWicky; Recording Secy., Percy Stuermann; Financial Secy., Harry Ober; Treasurer, Harold Vaughn; Trustee—3 years, Joseph Martine, and Sgt.-at-Arms, Donald Thomson.

On January 1st, **Frank Herbert**, Attendant on the Shark River Bridge, took the oath of office as Mayor of South Belmar for the seventh consecutive term.

Latest reports from the fighting fronts show **John Krol** in the Philippines. **Bill Marren's** son is on Leyte and had a narrow escape when a Jap sniper put a bullet through his coat.

Louis Unverzagt is still on the sick list, which reminds us that the bridge supervisors are hoping for better and warmer weather. It seems that the bad weather has brought a considerable portion of the operating personnel down with colds and grippe.

Angelo Manze has returned to work after a leave of absence due to illness.

Your columnist would appreciate receiving any news items of interest concerning the employees of the Division.

January brings birthday greetings to the following Electrical Division employees:

Chester G. Anderson, Trenton; **John J. Fullam**, Jersey City; **Herman Grasing**, Bay Head; **Carl Hermann**, Milltown; **Samuel Hughes**, South Amboy; **Martin V. Hyers**, Point Pleasant; **Ralph Lee**, Milltown; **George McKnight**, Jersey City; **Benjamin F. Newman**, Manasquan, on Military Leave; **George Pepper**, Manasquan; **Charles Peschken**, Paterson; **Herman Siegenbeine**, Masonville; **Harold T. Vaughn**, South Belmar; **Samuel Voss**, West Creek, and **William B. Widmann**, West Trenton.

Henry Johnson writes from the South Pacific to say that things are anything but homelike down there. In fact, he writes that he has not been paid in a month and a half and that even the canned food is warm. He advises **George McGinnis**, now stationed with the Navy at Boston, to stay put even if it is cold. Henry puts in a plug for **THE HIGHWAY** and says regardless of how late it arrives it is certainly welcome. A letter will reach Johnson addressed as follows:

Henry K. Johnson, C.E.M.
USSAR D-24
c/o Fleet P. O.
San Francisco, Calif.

Gulch recently donated his eighth pint of blood although he will not receive credit from the Blood Bank. John gave a transfusion to a niece of **Madge Kiernan**... Sorry to learn of **Ruth Barbour's** mother's illness. We wish her a speedy recovery... Staff Sgt. Lou Ulla and Cpl. Lacombe both stationed in the New York area, visited the Department... We received a letter from Seaman 2/c **Otto Peterson** from the South Pacific. Otto wants to be remembered to all his friends in the Department. Welcome to **Mrs. Mary Harris** who has joined **Bill Wildblood's** staff.

Pvt. Kermit Bonner writes that he is attached to a General Hospital somewhere in France. Bonner says the 12 to 20 hours of work each day don't bother him, but the French money gives him plenty of trouble.

BUY WAR BONDS
and give the change to fight
INFANTILE PARALYSIS
JANUARY 14-31

Variety of Suggestions Accepted Since Last Report Was Published

Suggestion System Proves of Value in Gathering Many New Ideas

In September THE HIGHWAY published a complete list of employees who had submitted suggestions which had been accepted by the Suggestion Committee. Since that date many additional suggestions have been received which are now being processed. A list of the latest accepted suggestions together with the names of suggesters follows:

1. Installation of lights over emery wheels in Fernwood shop. Submitted by John C. Wain, Equipment Division.

2. Welcoming letter to returning veterans upon the occasion of their resumption of duties with the Department. Submitted by Robert S. Green, Landscape Division.

3. Purchase of L-E-Vation rods (direct reading rods for survey use.) Submitted by Geo. C. Jorgenson, Survey & Plans Div.

4. Use of standard barricade of the general design submitted by suggester. Submitted by C. H. Weller, Maintenance Div.

5. Placement of "Danger" signs at certain sections of Route 8 along the Delaware River. Submitted by A. J. Hedden, Maintenance Div.

6. War Bond stimulus through additional enrollment in the payroll deduction. Submitted by Thos. L. Russo, Construction Div.

7. Placement of fire extinguishers in certain rented garages for the protection of Highway equipment stored at those locations. Submitted by Chas. C. Saegers, Maintenance Div.

8. Standard use of "whiteface" tape. Submitted by Geo. C. Jorgenson, Survey & Plans Div.

9. Monumenting of base-line and rights-of-way. This decision resulted from the deliberations of a special committee to study the problem and was based on a suggestion submitted by Rudolph Vogel, Jr., Survey & Plans Div.

Submit Report

The Suggestion Committee recently submitted a report to Commissioner Miller covering the activities of the Committee up to November 30th. This report showed that 44 suggestions had been accepted to that date; that 27 were at that time being evaluated, while 9 had been deferred for future action.

Twenty-eight percent of all suggestions received had been accepted, a figure which is highly commendable and which tends to show the type of suggestions that have reached the Committee. Fourteen of the suggestions received were rejected because investigation disclosed that the recommended practice was already being done or was in the process of being put into effect.

In acknowledging the report and commenting on the Suggestion System, Commissioner Miller wrote in part, "It seems to me that the Committee has not only performed a most useful record of accomplishment over the past year, but it has fully justified its creation."

At present the Suggestion Committee is composed of: Arthur J. Lichtenberg, chairman, W. Carpenter Davis, secretary; Alex W. Muir, T. Willard Emmons, Fred C. Claus, Clifford Wear, Philip L. Voss, Samuel E. Bullock, Wesley R. Bellis and Ralph A. Sherman.

Joseph F. Schlottenmeier

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Joseph F. Schlottenmeier of the Laboratory. Mr. Schlottenmeier, who was in his 56th year, died following a brief illness. He had been employed by the Highway Department since August, 1927, as a material inspector and during that time had made many friends in all sections of State.

He is survived by his

widow, Mrs.

Nellie F. Schlottenmeier, of 882 South Olden Avenue, Trenton, to whom THE HIGHWAY extends the sincerest sympathies of Highway employees everywhere.



Construction Comments

Fred C. Claus

Trenton

The Survey & Plans Division was singularly honored and felt very well pleased when, at the recent Christmas gathering, Commissioner Miller presented Certificates of Merit to two members of this Division. The recipients were Harry Fowler and Rudy Vogel. To them go our sincere congratulations.

A recent letter from Ollie Doll reveals that he is now a Captain. Congratulations! Those who know him well expected nothing less. As a matter of fact we'll gamble that Ollie will do better than this before it's over. His letter read in part as follows: "Tell them to keep right at top speed sending us all the goods and we'll worry about bankruptcy later. If they only realized how heaven-blessed our land is by not being war-ravaged they would sneak in the war plants at night to turn out more stuff at no cost."

A recent visitor, but only for a moment, was Capt. Ben Stokes, who had just time enough to stop in to say hello and goodbye while enroute to a new destination. Ben looked swell and claims to be feeling fine. We don't see him often, but when we do his rank is always the next higher than when we saw him last. Don't disappoint us the next time we meet for we'll be looking for a leaf on your shoulder. Good luck.

Upper Montclair

An interesting letter from Sgt. Eddie Young tells of seeing plenty of Europe. As a Highwayman, Eddie is critical of the roads which he describes as narrow and rough. Some are made of cobblestones and are bordered with a smooth 5-foot strip on either side for the use of cyclists who, according to Eddie, range in age from 9 to 90.

The constant rains leave everything a sea of mud and to add to the inconvenience buzz bombs are sent over with regularity, raising havoc with the civilian population. Thanks for the letter, Eddie.

Congratulations to Tony Marino, a 25-year employee, who has recently become the father of a baby girl, which proves that even after 25 years with the Highway Department a man can have young ideas. It is nice to report that mother and baby are doing fine.

The Montclair office also claims distinction in another field. During the recent deer season, which was far from a good one, Johnny Matchett bagged a buck. That is, we understand he did, although no venison steaks reached this office.

Woodlynne Office

Walter Reeves, Highway Inspector, has kept us in touch with his travels during a 3-week tour of Florida. A bushel of oranges and grapefruit was shipped to the Woodlynne office by this Woodslynne councilman which was heartily enjoyed by all.

Frank Shoemaker arrived one morning recently resplendent in an office coat he had uncovered at home. The next day several of his co-workers appeared decked out in smocks and even berets. One ingenious fellow, not to be outdone, wore an old linen duster — vintage of 1905.

Frank apparently has had the last word though for he is still togged out in the office coat while the smocks, berets and duster are once more reposing in various attice trunks.

Reported Missing Following Flight Over Germany

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Cottrell of 1102 Asbury Ave., Asbury Park, have received word that their son, Staff Sgt. Bert Cottrell, has been reported missing following a flight over Germany on November 21st. He is an aerial gunner on a B-17 (Flying Fortress).



STAFF SGT. COTTRELL

Sgt. Cottrell, who is 20 years of age, enlisted in the Air Corps in December, 1942, and after extensive training went overseas in June of last year. He received the Air Medal last August.

Bert Cottrell is the truck driver for Foreman Howard Van Benthuysen's landscape crew. Highwaymen everywhere join in the hope that further information will reveal that his son is safe.

LABORATORY LINES

Norm Schaller

An interesting letter was recently received from Ed Pollock from somewhere in the Pacific. He states that he hasn't set foot on ground many times in the past few months. Ed has really been in the thick of Pacific action and appreciates very much his copy of THE HIGHWAY which keeps him posted on what is happening in the Department.

Several Lab employees recently spent an enjoyable evening at the home of Geo. Goeller who was home on a short leave.

Fred Baumann has received word from his son, Roy, from somewhere in England. Roy pilots a P-47 Thunderbolt.

Ralph Sherman's son, Wendell, writes that he has finished his basic training with an infantry unit and is awaiting further orders.

Jack Marren, Jr., writes his dad that he is kept busy at a Navy Hospital in California.

The girls are keeping the typewriters hot typing up the annual inventory reports.

Alice Mayer is vacationing at St. Petersburg, Fla., with her mother and father who are spending the winter there.

The passing of Joe Schlottemeier on Jan. 1, 1945, has left a definite void in the activities at the Laboratory. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Mrs. Schlottemeier.

Our condolences to M. P. McDole upon the death of Mrs. McDole. The news came as a shock to Mac's many friends throughout the Department.

Not long ago Henry Thomas quietly came in the back door, picked out a drawing board and without ceremony went to work again for the Department after a two-year absence in a local shipyard. So unexpected was Henry's return that he completely escaped the usual "bird" that would have otherwise been waiting for him.

Gunning season came and went without too much excitement. The usual quota of nimrods went afield with varying success. They included: Ray Weatherly, Bill Hancock of Real Estate, Paul Tusing and his brother, Wayne.

Maintenance Notes

GENE BECKNER

Andy Del Vecchio, of Netcong, has sent us some interesting facts about Foreman L. C. Ely's maintenance crew, of which he is a member. There are some 22 employees in the crew and they boast a total of 18 service stars. One of these is a Gold Star which hangs in the window of Harry Lussy, of Wharton, who lost his only son, Robert, killed on the Anzio Beachhead last Spring. Harry has recently been appointed a Foreman and with a portion of Ely's crew has been assigned to his own maintenance section. Walter Cassimore, who formerly worked in this crew is now in the Army and when last heard from was stationed somewhere in North Africa. Others who have Service Stars are Cesare Di Bernardi, of Netcong, and Joe Kuletz, of Dover, each with 3 sons in the service; Paul Romano and Salvatore Milone, both of Netcong, with 2; while Walter Smith, Steve Chipko and Michael Giagnino, of Rockaway, and Dominick Togno, of Netcong, each have one. Del Vecchio himself has a brother serving Uncle Sam. Like most every other group today, despite the pressure of worry in regard to their loved ones in the service, these fellows are carrying on in splendid fashion. Elsewhere in this issue is reported the death of John Cirello, of Somerville, who died leaving six sons in the service. We are sorry that this did not come to our attention before John's death for we would like to have shared in his pride of these boys. It has occurred to us that there are probably many other employees throughout our Division who too have one or more children in the service. We would like to hear about them. Just drop us a line relating the details.

Bill Hoy, who works in Foreman Art Willmott's maintenance crew, was stricken seriously ill on Christmas Day and is now confined to the Perth Amboy General Hospital. Best wishes for an early recovery, Bill!

Xmas was the occasion for word from some of the fellows in the service from whom we haven't heard for some time. 1st Lt. Arnold L. Pach, of Belmar, sent an interesting Xmas Card from an advanced post in Belgium. Randy LaBarre, formerly with Howard Van Benthuysen's landscape crew, writes an interesting letter advising that he is now assigned to a destroyer escort and has been promoted to the rank of Sonar Operator, 2nd Class. Randy will have to enlighten us further as to just what that means. He sends his best regard to all his friends in the Department and says that he enjoys receiving The Highway very much despite the twinges of homesickness it engenders.

Some months ago we mentioned in this column a cleaning fluid which Mike Onydy had perfected and had been used with great satisfaction by a number of us. Since then, Mike's business has grown immeasurably and his cleaner is being used by an ever-widening circle of purchasers. Just ask Mike about it and give it a try.

On the Friday before Xmas, some of the boys (and a girl) enjoyed a wee Xmas celebration. After cocktails at the home of John T. Carr, Jr., and his attractive wife, luncheon was enjoyed at the Heidelberg Inn with Jack and his wife as guests of honor. Others in attendance were: Florence Millerick, Tony Kuhn, Paul Lutjich, Norm Horner, Charlie Fearnley, Jimmy Walter, Ken Craft, Earl Storer, John T. Carr, Sr., and Gene Beckner. A few days later Jack, Jr., upon completion of his leave, returned to Camp Endicott, L. I. for re-assignment. Santa Claus was good to Jack, Sr. Two other of his boys in the service, Bob and Joe, also got home for Xmas.

Ensign Connie Elston, son of Eleanor Elston, now stationed at Port Hueneme, California, in charge of an aviation rescue boat for the U. S. Coast Guard has completely recovered from injuries sustained from a fall while on board ship. He spent several days in the hospital, but is now back on duty.

BRIDGE BRIEFS

A. J. LICHTENBERG



M. L. VAIL

Mel Vail, Resident Eng. Bridge Construction is house hunting in North Jersey following his assignment to supervise the borings for 31 bridges extending across the State on Routes 2, S3, 4, S4B, 6 and 23. This project is another evidence of preparation for post-war construction. The Contractor is the Riley Engineering and Drilling Co.

John J. Koffler, Bridge Construction Inspector on leave with the War Department just received the third award for meritorious service as a civilian for his work on the Newark Airport and Morrissey Airport projects. Lt. Col. D. F. Fisher stated "Mr. Koffler was allowed great latitude in execution of these projects and was directly responsible only to the Resident Engineer, who relied completely upon his judgment and ability in making decisions and in prosecuting the work." . . . L. C. Petersen has returned to the fold much improved after his rest. George Voorhees, we understand, has a new heart throb . . . Albert E. Lee recovering nicely from his recent operation . . . Those Christmas cards from Hunter, Gabrenas, Bissell, Everett, Williams, Wilson, Koffler and McCullough were appreciated here . . . We regretfully record the passing of James B. Walsh who died at his home in Orange on December 20, 1944. He served as a Bridge Construction Inspector until June 20, 1943 when our construction program was curtailed . . . R. B. Tittsworth taking over reins during Pete's absence . . . Bridge Division Club Annual Dinner at the Robert Treat Hotel, Newark, Feb. 20th . . . Harry Bergen temporarily transferred to State Wide Planning Board . . . John M. Everett may be reached by addressing him as CMC, NCB 301, F.P.O. San Francisco . . . Bridge Division Christmas Party has resolved itself into a sort of miniature Gridiron Club in which the virtues and vices of employees are lampooned thru poetry and an exchange of gifts. Food in the Swedish manner of Hedin is always a high light . . . Jack Sheean reports that his son, John J., has been reported missing on a bomber mission in the Asiatic theatre of war. We trust that he may return safely . . . Geo. A. Hefferman is practicing "mind over platter" and hopes for a Paul Draper profile. Incidentally, George went to Philadelphia to give that eighth pint of blood . . . Capt. V. E. Williams, C. E. 0922037, 368th Eng. (G 5) Regt. Co. F, A.P.O. 350 New York, would like to hear from you. He has been living in a French Chateau . . . Pat McCullough recovering from a severe cold . . . Leon Chatten at Eastern Aircraft, Trenton . . . Winter vacationists included M. F. Fury; R. E. Simon; S. Hedin; J. F. Evans and M. L. Lusky . . . M. L. Vail in for a visit . . . Chester Smith is enthusiastic about his coal re-burning procedure in which the last ounce of energy is transformed into heat . . . A Dutch East Indies native who was watching an amphibian brigade engineer push down trees with a bulldozer was asked to compare the jungle fighting of the Allies to that of the Japanese.

"Aussie, him good jungle fighter," he answered. "Jap, him good jungle fighter" "American come, jungle go."